

Message Text

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42 S
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 INR-07 DODE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3735

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, SA, JO, SY
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SAUDI CHIEF OF STAFF

REF: AMMAN 3714

1. I HAD A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH SAUDI COLLEAGUE AT DIPLOMATIC CORPS GREETING CEREMONY FOR NEW PRIME MINISTER BADRAN.
2. I TOLD SAUDI I HAD UNDERSTOOD HIS CHIEF OF STAFF HAD BROUGHT TO JORDAN SOME GOOD NEWS ON AIR DEFENSE. SAUDI TOLE ME IN REPLY THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS NOT TO TALK ABOUT AIR DEFENSE BUT RATHER TO INFORM JORDAN AND SYRIA THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD DECIDED TO WITHDRAW ITS ARMY BRIGADES STATIONED IN THE TWO COUNTIRES.
3. THE SAUDI WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT SAUDI ARABIA NOW CONSIDERED IT "TIME" TO WITHDRAW THE BRIGADES AND BESIDES THERE WERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND SYRIA OVER LEBANON. SAUDI STRESSED THAT CHIEF OF STAFF VISIT WAS TO BREAK NEWS OF THE SAUDI DECISION ONLY AND THAT WITHDRAWAL WOULD TAKE PLACE SLOWLY OVER TIME.
PICKERING

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